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G. Fayon  
11/15/02

PATENT APPLICATION  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	:	Bruno BORSOI et al.	)	
			)	Group Art Unit 3728
Appln. No.	:	09/973,035	)	
			)	Examiner Unknown
Filed	:	October 10, 2001	)	
			)	
	:	INTERNAL TIGHTENING	)	
		DEVICE FOR FOOTWEAR	)	



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR 1.56 and in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, the following information is brought to the attention of the Examiner for his or her consideration during the examination of the instant application.

The following documents were cited in a search report in the French priority application upon which the instant application is based. A copy of the search report and a copy of an annex thereto, indicating "family member" documents, are attached.

European Patent Publication No. 0 259 896 (RAICHLE SPORTSCHUH AG), published on March 16, 1988, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claims 1-4, 6, 9, 13, 17, and 18 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application, and as being pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited

in claim 7 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of EP '896 is cited as being pertinent.

European Patent Publication No. 0 146 502 (RAICHLE SPORTSCHUH AG), published on June 26, 1985 is a family member of EP '896 and is cited in paragraph [0003] of the substitute specification of the instant application, filed on December 20, 2001. Further, an English language abstract for EP '502 and EP '896, downloaded from esp@cenet, is attached.

U.S. Patent No. 4,030,215 (VOGEL), issued on June 21, 1977, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is particularly pertinent (i.e., a category "X" document) to the invention recited in claims 1-3, 5, 14, 17, and 18 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '215 is cited as being pertinent.

U.S. Patent No. 4,513,520 (KOCH), issued on April 30, 1985, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 7, and 10 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of US '520 is cited as being pertinent. Also, US '520 is cited in paragraph [0005] of the substitute specification of the instant application, filed on December 20, 2001.

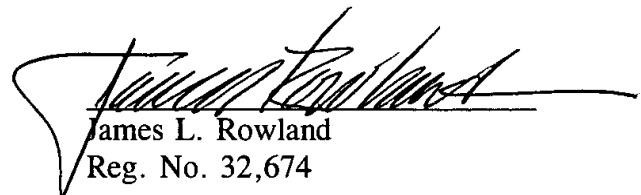
Swiss Patent Publication No. 408 706 (STEULE et al.), published on February 28, 1966, is cited in the aforementioned search report as being a document that is pertinent to the general state of the art (i.e., a category "A" document) with regard to the invention recited in claims 1, 8, and 10 of Applicants' aforementioned priority application. The entirety of CH '706 is cited as being pertinent.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP 609, a copy of each of the above-mentioned documents is enclosed herewith. Further, each is listed on the attached PTO-1449 forms to permit the Examiner to indicate his or her consideration thereof.

The Examiner is requested to consider the documents cited above and to confirm such consideration by appropriately initialling the listings on the PTO-1449 forms and returning a copy of each of the initialled forms to Applicants.

Any comments or questions concerning this application can be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bruno BORSOI et al.



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